

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following comment, is respectfully requested.

This amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.116 which after final rejection permits entering of amendments canceling claims, complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action, or presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. The present amendment cancels all but claims indicated as reciting allowable subject matter. This amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Claim 10 is pending in this application. Claim 10 is rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4 and 6-9 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by this amendment. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 4 and 6-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Du et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,675,233, hereinafter Du) in view of Oshima (U.S. Patent No. 5,473,584). Claim 10 was objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim but was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the early indication of allowable subject matter in Claim 10. Accordingly, Claim 10 is rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening Claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 10 is now in condition for formal allowance.

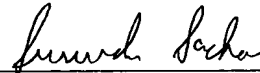
Claims 4 and 6-9 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by this amendment, thereby obviating the prior art rejections.

Application No. 10/849,258  
Reply to Office Action of February 16, 2005

As no further issues are believed to be outstanding in this application, the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)

Surinder Sachar  
**Registration No. 34,423**

I:\ATTY\SAE\PROSECUTION\25'S\253173US\253173US-AF AM.DOC